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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 001868

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 04/29/2014

TAGS PREL, PGOV, PINR, PBTS, EUN, USEU BRUSSELS

SUBJECT: DINING WITH CHRIS: RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM RELEX

COMMISSIONER PATTEN

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Kyle Scott. Reason: 1.4 (B )(D)

11. (C) Summary: Over rubbery fish at an Adenauer Stiftung affair on April 27, External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten touched briefly on On What It Means to Be a "Real Power"

12. (C) To be a real power, Patten said, a country must be ready and able to adopt and implement a policy, even if the rest of the world consid Next Steps On Cyprus/Papadopolous' Dubious Character...

13. (C) The next steps for the Commission are figuring out how to spend money in Northern Cyprus. Patten expects the EC to open an office to ov Turkey

14. (C) Patten noted that he was the biggest proponent in the Commission for Turkey's admission. In his view, based on the technical merits alc On the Difference Between a Union and an Alliance

15. (C) Patten also said he felt at times the US does not fully appreciate the difference between expanding an alliance like NATO, and a Union On Russia, WTO, Kyoto, and Putin's "Killer's Eyes"

16. (C) Patten was in Moscow last week, and had just concluded EU-Russia ministerial consultations in Brussels this week. He said the EU had be

17. (C) WTO discussions had not moved forward substantially during these most recent talks. Patten said the EC was sticking with its positions

18. (C) Patten said Putin has done a good job for Russia mainly due to high world energy prices, but he had serious doubts about the man's char Ten Commandments for the Next Commission

19. (SBU) Patten's public remarks at the dinner focused on the future of the Commission -- not foreign affairs. He offered ten recommendations -- 1) Deliver substance: highlight areas where the EU can make a difference in the world, such as the rapid changes in Justice and Home Affairs -- 2) Go with the flow of the institutional debate: Don't spend energy trying to stop intergovernmental efforts that have a head of steam behin -- 3) Exploit the "Community Method" where it exists: Make the most of EC strengths, such as on the internal market, trade, or foreign assistar -- 4) Be open to new ways of working: The number of regulations passed should not be a measure of success of the Commission. -- 5) Regulate better: aggressively develop the initiative the Commission launched in 2002. Get serious about consultation and impact assessment --6) Get economic management right: There should be no "free riders" in the monetary union, but the EU should seek greater flexibility that tak -- 7) Put more effort into monitoring implementation of EU legislation: use score cards and "league tables" on infractions. Compare best practi -- 8) Be prepared to scale back or eliminate bad policies: Take a thorough look at the CAP, and focus greater attention on what needs to be dor -- 9) Get internal organization right: Create real clusters of issues where Commission Vice Presidents have real authority.

-- 10) Demonstrate that the EU can make a difference to people's lives.

SCHNABEL